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Scholarships
Mini Unit Overview

Students will debunk scholarship myths, learn why applying to scholarships are so important, and get introduced to Academic Works. They will also have time to complete scholarships.

- **Agency** is the ability to make choices about and take an active role in one's life path, rather than solely being the product of one's circumstances. Agency requires the intentionality and forethought to derive a course of action and adjust course as needed to reflect one's identity, competencies, knowledge and skills, mindsets, and values.
- **Knowledge** is sets of facts, information, or understanding about oneself, others and the world. Skills are the learned abilities to carry out a task with intended results or goals.

Scholarships will allow students to practice and develop mastery in the following Common Core State Standards and 21st Century Skills.

Common Core State Standards

- CC.11-12.SL.1 Comprehension and Collaboration: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- CC.11-12.SL.6 Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

21st Century Skills

- **Learning and Innovation Skills:**
  - Make Judgments and Decisions
  - Solve Problems
  - Communicate Clearly
  - Collaborate with Others
- **Information, Media, and Technology Skills:**
  - Use and Manage Information
  - Apply Technology Effectively
- **Life and Career Skills:**
  - Work Independently
  - Manage Goals and Time
  - Interact Effectively with Others
  - Work Effectively in Diverse Teams
  - Produce Results

Scholarships
At-A-Glance Calendar

Scholarships

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Activities: • Brainstorming activity on costs of college • Video of student debt in the US • Discussion	**Activities:** • Scholarship Myths Debunked • Scholarship Applications Day 1	**Activities:** • Scholarship Applications Day 2	**Activities:** • Scholarship Applications Day 3	**Activities:** • Scholarship Applications Day 4 • Complete first round of scholarship applications
Materials: • Chart Paper • Markers • Debrief Questions • Student Debt Video	**Materials:** • Computers • Scholarship Myths Debunked Article	**Materials:** • Computers • Scholarship Myths Debunked Article	**Materials:** • Computers • Scholarship Myths Debunked Article	**Materials:** • Computers • Scholarship Myths Debunked Article

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Scholarships

Day 1

Opening

Timing: 5-8 Minutes **Resources/Materials:** ○ Journal prompt on display	**Journal:** Money is the #1 reason students drop out of college. It can be a huge burden and it's hard to figure out how to finance your education. But there are ways! List all of the financial supports that you can think of that could help you through college.

Activity

ARC Objectives:

- ➕ **(A) Tinker. Discover**: Negotiate ideas with others
- ➕ **(R) Describe & Evaluate**: Talk about feelings & thoughts related to experiences

Timing: 30-35minutes

Resources/Materials:

- ○ Chart Paper
- ○ Markers
- ○ Debrief Questions
- ○ Student Debt Video

Scholarship applications can be complex and intimidating. Embarc students will receive a variety of supports throughout this process to ensure that they are applying to the scholarships that align to their credentials. This section of the unit gives students the space to complete several scholarship applications within the supportive environment of their Embarc classroom.

Scholarship Round 1: In the next couple of lessons, students will focus on scholarship applications. The more they apply to, the better off they will be. They will begin by thinking of all the different costs they will encounter during college and how even small amounts of support can help them a great deal.

Brainstorming Activity: To get students to think about the different costs of college, lead them through the following brainstorming activity.

- Put students into groups and give each group one of the following topics:
    1. Getting to School and Going Back Home (transportation)
    2. Materials for School
    3. Living Independently
    4. Social Life
- Have student groups list all of the things they might have to pay for in their category on the left side of a piece of chart paper
- Next to each item, students will list a weekly and a monthly price for how much they anticipate spending on those items.
- On the right side, they will come up with as many financial supports as they can think of to cover the costs of college.

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	• Have student groups share out their charts • As a whole group, come up with a total for all categories and their costs. **Debrief:** Lead a discussion with the following questions: 1. What does this mean for you and your current financial situation? 2. Is this discouraging? 3. What can you do to be proactive about covering all of these costs? 4. How can knowledge about finances and debt help you in this situation? **Student Debt:** Explain to students that one way most students cover their costs is through student loans. Then, explain that this week they will attempt to avoid the student debt crisis by applying for scholarships.

Closing

Timing: 5-8 Minutes **Resources/Materials:** ○ Closing Reflection on display	**Closing Reflection:** The thought of money can be discouraging. How can you make sure that things like money don't lead you to a negative mindset? How can you make sure that your motivation stays intact?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Preparing for Postsecondary Success

Financial Hurdles Brainstorming Instructions

Day 1

1. In your groups, list as many costs as you can think of that relate to your assigned topic on the left side of your chart paper.

2. Next to each item on the list in the middle of your chart paper, estimate the weekly/monthly/yearly cost of the item. For some items you may only pay once a year or once a month, so just include that price.

3. Add up every cost you have and put a grand total on the bottom of the chart paper.

4. On the right side of your chart paper, list as many financial supports that you can think of that might help you to pay for some of these costs.

5. Be prepared to share with the class.

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Scholarships

Day 2

Opening

Timing: 5-8 Minutes

Resources/Materials:

- Journal prompt on display

Journal: Imagine someone gave you $25 to help with your college education. How would you feel? What could you do with that amount of money?

Activity

ARC Objectives:

- **(A) Choose. Discover**: Recognize constraints/ weaknesses; recognize advantages/strengths
- **(A) Choose. Understand**: Make decisions; identify goals
- **(R) Envision. Understand**: Classify specific behaviors and/or strategies that will promote or derail future visions

Timing: 30-35minutes

Resources/Materials:

- Computers
- Access to Naviance
- Scholarship Myths Debunked Article
- Instructions for finding Scholarship Matches on Naviance

Scholarship Applications Day 1: Today students will start to match themselves with scholarships and will have today and the next three days to look for and apply for scholarships. They will keep track of the scholarships they have applied for in Naviance.

Scholarship Myths Debunked:

- To get students in their right mindset to apply for scholarships, read the information on the Scholarship Myths Debunked Article in a popcorn style read aloud.
- Take any comments after the article has been read.

Scholarship Application:

- Give students the step-by-step instructions to match into scholarships on CPS Academic Works and allow them time today and the next three days to apply to a variety of scholarships.
- Teachers can also choose to use external websites such as College Greenlight and Going Merry

Note: This will require a lot of guidance, support, and encouragement from the teacher. Be sure to connect with each student individually to offer support and suggestions.

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Closing	
Timing: 5-8 Minutes **Resources/Materials:** ○ Closing Reflection on display	**Closing Reflection:** What is one scholarship that you found today that you know you will apply for? What are the requirements? Why did you choose this scholarship?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Preparing for Postsecondary Success

Scholarship Myths Debunked

Day 2

1. You have to be an Honor Student or an Athlete

FACT: Although there are merit-based and athletic scholarships available, there are many scholarship programs that are based on your choice of major, volunteer work, and creative abilities. You can also receive awards from employers, churches, and other organizations; having straight As or being the star quarterback is not a requirement for most scholarship programs. There's even a scholarship specifically for students who don't have a stellar grade point average - A GPA Isn't Everything Scholarship.

2. If I Win, I'll Lose My Other Financial Aid

FACT: Maybe. You typically cannot receive more financial aid than the school has estimated it will cost for you to attend, so colleges may reduce the amount of your award package to compensate for any free money you may have won. But each school has its own policy for handling outside scholarships and determining how they affect the awarding of grants, loans and institutional scholarships. For example, let's say a college will meet your need by offering an award package that includes a $5,500 Pell Grant, a $5,000 institutional scholarship, and another $5,000 in federal student loans. If you win a $2,500 scholarship from an outside source, the college policy may require a reduction of $2,500 in your institutional scholarship award, or it may work to your advantage by requiring a $2,500 reduction in your loan amount, so you end up borrowing less to pay for school. You still receive the same amount of money ($15,500) to cover your expenses, but could walk away with less student loan debt, depending on the policy. Check with your college financial aid office to review the outside scholarship policy and get a better understanding of how your outside scholarships may affect your financial aid package.

3. Too Many People Apply

FACT: This is not always the case. Here's the thing about scholarships: the less work required, the more people apply. If you simply have to complete a contact form and hit 'submit,' you may very well be competing with thousands of other applicants. To increase your odds of winning, look into programs with multiple essays or those with high word counts. Programs with smaller awards ($500 or less) also tend to be snubbed by students. More effort = less competition!

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4. If I Have a Perfect GPA, I'll be Offered a Full-Ride

FACT: Probably not. Although there are full-ride scholarships available, there aren't enough for every stellar student. In fact, less than 20,000 students each year (about 0.3% of those attending college) will earn a full-ride scholarship. It may seem unfair that you spent all that time studying and working for that perfect 4.0 only to find out it's still not good enough to get a full ride to college, but honestly, it's not realistic for most students to expect to receive this type of scholarship.

5. Scholarship Aren't Worth the Effort

FACT: Crazy! If someone offered you a part-time job for $50 an hour, would you take it? Of course you would! That is how you should view applying for scholarships – as a part-time job. If you spend 20 hours searching and applying for scholarships, and win just one $1,000 scholarship, you just earned $50 an hour for your efforts. Do the math – scholarships are definitely worth your time! There really is no 'trick' to winning one of these 'treats,' you just have to put in the time and believe in yourself. Be sure to use a free online scholarship search service, such as ScholarshipExperts.com, to help you identify the scholarships you are eligible for and then start applying. Remember, if you don't submit any applications, you won't have a chance to win free money for college!

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Preparing for Postsecondary Success

CPS Academic Works Search Instructions

Day 2

1. Go to **cps.academicworks.com**
2. Click the "Sign In" Button in the top right hand corner of the page
3. Click "CPS Students Sign In Here" and sign in to your CPS email
4. Complete the General application questions
5. You will see a box that says "**Students will receive correspondence through the Academic Works tool on scholarship deadlines. The CPS Scholarship Manager sends additional reminders and scholarship alerts via the CollegeScholarships@cps.edu account. Please select YES to this question to opt-in to receiving scholarship and scholarship related emails from the CPS Scholarship Manager."** Make sure you select "Yes" in order to receive email notifications for new scholarships.
6. Click "Finish and Submit"
7. You can now explore scholarship opportunities by clicking on the "Opportunities" tab

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Scholarships

Day 3

Opening

Timing: 5-8 Minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Journal prompt on display

Journal: Imagine someone gave you a full ride scholarship to the school of your dreams. How would you feel? What could you do with that amount of money? How would you show your gratitude?

Activity

ARC Objectives:
- ➕ **(A) Choose. Discover**: Recognize constraints/ weaknesses; recognize advantages/strengths
- ➕ **(A) Choose. Understand**: Make decisions; identify goals
- ➕ **(R) Envision. Understand**: Classify specific behaviors and/or strategies that will promote or derail future visions

Timing: 30-35minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Computers
- Access to Naviance
- Instructions for finding Scholarship Matches on Naviance

Scholarship Applications Day 2:

- Today students will continue to match themselves with scholarships and will have today and the next two days to look for and apply for scholarships. They will keep track of the scholarships they have applied for in Naviance.

Scholarship Application:

- Make sure students still have the step-by-step instructions to match to scholarships on CPS Academic Works and allow them time today and the next two days to apply to a variety of scholarships.

Note: This will require a lot of guidance, support, and encouragement from the teacher. Be sure to connect with each student individually to offer support and suggestions.

Closing

Timing: 5-8 Minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Closing Reflection on display

Closing Reflection: What are some similarities you are finding on the scholarship applications that you are completing? Why do you think this similarity exists on scholarship applications?

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Scholarships

Day 4

Opening

Timing: 5-8 Minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Journal prompt on display

Journal: Read the quote below. What do you think the quote means? How does it relate to you? How does it relate to the journey that you are taking now toward your success?

Activity

ARC Objectives:
- ➕ **(A) Choose. Discover**: Recognize constraints/ weaknesses; recognize advantages/strengths
- ➕ **(A) Choose. Understand**: Make decisions; identify goals
- ➕ **(R) Envisions. Understand**: Classify specific behaviors and/or strategies that will promote or derail future visions

Timing: 30-35minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Computers
- Access to Naviance
- Instructions for finding Scholarship Matches on Naviance

Scholarship Applications Day 3:

- Today students will continue to match themselves with scholarships and will have today and the next day to look for and apply for scholarships. They will keep track of the scholarships they have applied for in Naviance.

Scholarship Application:

- Make sure students still have the step-by-step instructions to match to scholarships on CPS Academic Works and allow them time today and the next two days to apply to a variety of scholarships.

Note: This will require a lot of guidance, support, and encouragement from the teacher. Be sure to connect with each student individually to offer support and suggestions.

Closing

Timing: 5-8 Minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Closing Reflection on display

Closing Reflection: How have you demonstrated perseverance so far in your senior year? How do you keep pushing forward? What is your #1 inspiration?

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Scholarships

Day 5

Opening

Timing: 5-8 Minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Journal prompt on display

Journal: In most countries, college is free for citizens. How do you think free college in the US would change peoples' lives? Do you think it would make a difference in any big social issues? Explain.

Activity

ARC Objectives:
- ➕ **(A) Choose. Discover**: Recognize constraints/ weaknesses; recognize advantages/strengths
- ➕ **(A) Choose. Understand**: Make decisions; identify goals
- ➕ **(R) Envision. Understand**: Classify specific behaviors and/or strategies that will promote or derail future visions

Timing: 30-35minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Computers
- Access to Naviance
- Instructions for finding Scholarship Matches on Naviance

Scholarship Applications Day 4: Today students will finish the first round of their scholarship applications.

Scholarship Application:

- Allow students time to complete the application they are currently working on.
- As you did with the college application process, remind students that this should not be the last time they think about scholarships. They will need to continue to apply for as many scholarships as possible.

Note: This will require a lot of guidance, support, and encouragement from the teacher. Be sure to connect with each student individually to offer support and suggestions.

Closing

Timing: 5-8 Minutes

Resources/Materials:
- Closing Reflection on display

Closing Reflection: List three action items that you will do to keep your momentum for scholarship applications.

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